

## Community resources

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*courage is contagious*

## Viewing cable 05LIMA3847, CHANGING TACTICS:EXPLOSIVE DEVICES FOUND IN

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### Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

### Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags #cablegate and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. #[05LIMA3847](#).

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
<a href="#">05LIMA3847</a>	2005-09-06 21:34	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Lima

Appears in these articles:

<http://elcomercio.pe>

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 003847

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/31/2015  
TAGS: [SNAR](#) [ASEC](#) [PREL](#) [PE](#)  
SUBJECT: CHANGING TACTICS:EXPLOSIVE DEVICES FOUND IN  
ERADICATION FIELDS

Classified By: SUSAN KEOUGH, NAS DIRECTOR, Embassy Lima. Reason 1.5 (d)

¶1. (C) Summary: Between August 27-31, a total of 9 explosive devices were found by police and CORAH eradicators in the field during operations in the Santa Rosa area near Santa Lucia. One CORAH worker was hit and hospitalized when he triggered a device but the injuries were not life-threatening. This is the latest adjustment in tactics by the cocaleros in the Santa Lucia -Upper Huallaga area, who have mounted particularly violent and militant opposition to eradication. Cocaleros in this region previously attacked police helicopters. Police state they have found leaflets with instructions on how to prepare such booby traps indicating narco-terrorism may be involved. Operations are continuing with a commitment from the PNP to deploy explosives teams with canines to sweep eradication areas prior to and during operations. End Summary.

¶2. (C) On August 27, at the ongoing eradication operation in the area of Santa Rosa, near Santa Lucia in the Upper Huallaga, a CORAH worker sustained injuries to the face and chest as a result of a small explosive device detonating. The explosive device had been planted near the roots of the coca plant that the worker was attempting to extract. He was evacuated via helicopter to Santa Lucia and subsequently to Pucallpa hospital for medical treatment. The injuries were not life-threatening and he is recovering. On the same day, the CORAH workers found another explosive device that went off but caused no injury. A subsequent sweep of the area revealed 4 additional explosive devices and a booby trap utilizing a shotgun.

¶3. (C) On August 30, 3 similar explosive devices were located in the same general eradication area. NAS has asked the PNP to hold these devices for expert analysis. They appear to contain dynamite and are operated by a battery that triggers an explosion when disturbed by contact. While it is

speculative to say cocaleros in league with narco-terrorists are responsible, the police report they have found leaflets with instructions on how to prepare such devices. We are in close contact with the police to ascertain who is responsible for planting these booby traps.

14. (C) Eradication is continuing apace in the Santa Rosa area. In coordination with NAS, the PNP is assigning explosives teams with canines to the operations. Areas to be eradicated will routinely be swept prior to and during operations. DIRANDRO will continue to incorporate DIRCOTE (anti-terrorist police) and DINOPES Special Ops police to support eradication and interdiction efforts. On September 5, the 6,000 hectare mark was passed for eradication.

15. (C) Comment: In a clear break from the past, elements linked to coca cultivation and production in the Upper Huallaga - cocaleros, narco-traffickers and subversive groups - are changing tactics to counter more aggressive eradication on the part of the Peruvian Government. In recent memory, cocaleros have not sabotaged their fields in this way. The ambush on NAS helicopters in April was the opening salvo in a stepped up campaign to drive out government presence from this area of increasing coca cultivation. Direct links between Sendero Luminoso and narco-trafficking continue to emerge: police confirm destroying numerous cocaine-base laboratories and adjacent fields owned by individuals with links to SL.

16. (C) Comment continued: As we continue to successfully eradicate and carry out interdiction operations in socially conflictive areas, aggressive actions such as the explosive devices are expected to increase. Threat assessments and increasing security measures will continue in our efforts to protect personnel and equipment. The information about instructions for making the crude explosive devices leads to the conclusion that Sendero Luminosa may be giving the example and motivating the cocaleros. In the past, aggressive actions such as laying explosive devices would likely have resulted in the suspension of operations and we are encouraged by the police resolve, which we believe will continue under despite current changes in the police leadership.

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